

Saul and the Witch

1 Samuel 28:3-25

1 Sam 28:3

2 things important to situation:

1. Samuel is dead .
2. Saul had destroyed all mediums and wizards in Israel.

Familiar spirits: ventriloquists, Acts 16:16, 18

Under influence of demon, became greatly inflated, as Hebrew word implies,

Give answers in a frenzy.

Spiritists or witches.

Lev 19:31 *Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.*

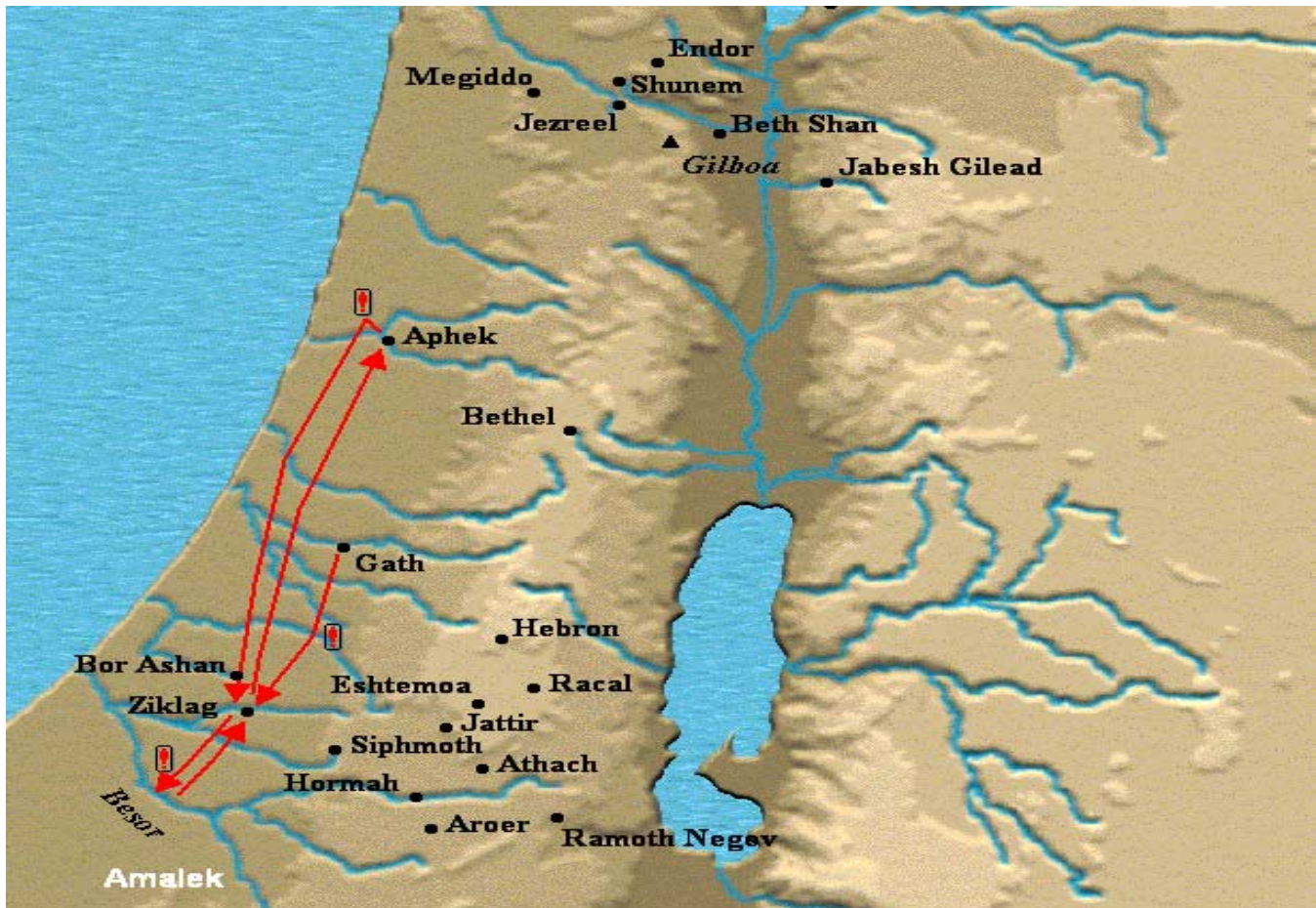
Wizard: practices witchcraft or sorcery

Exo 22:18 *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*

Lev 20:27 *... surely be put to death:*

Deu 18:10-12 *... 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: ... God doth drive them out from before thee.*

1 Sam 28:4



1 Sam 28:5

Philistine army gathered forces at Aphek.

Marched up to southern part of Sea of Galilee

Plan--control all Israel by splitting in half.

Israel's leader lost focus.

Dominated with thought of finding and eliminating David.

Saul terrified.

Gathers army together at Mt Gilboa

1 Sam 28:6

The Lord answered him not—tried to discern will of God by using available methods.

1. Dreams
2. Urim
3. Prophets

1 Sam 28:7

En-dor -- north of the Israelite camp, close to Nazareth.

Saul knows mediums, wizards and spiritists are wrong.

Rationalizes--one of the manifestations of flesh.

Take something in heart you know to be evil and rationalize it until, having convinced yourself it is good, you practice it.

God is silent . So Saul rationalizes

Merrill F. Unger, Biblical Demonology, p 148, Scripture Press, Wheaton Illin. 1952 *This episode of Saul's visit to the "spiritistic medium at Endor is not only the most prominent and detailed case of necromancy in Scripture, but it stands unique and unparalleled, as not only a glaring expose' of the fraudulency of spiritism, but also as God's unequivocal condemnation of all traffic in occultism, and his sure punishment of all who break his divinely ordained laws in having recourse to it.*

Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit --a woman controlling, mistress of, a divining demon.

Seem odd-a man who has expelled all witches out of the land of Israel and has condemned them as being dangerous would now turn to a witch for counsel?

At En-dor—City in valley of Jezreel , at foot of Mount Gilboa

1 Sam 28:8

Puts on disguise in order not be recognized.

Go at night:

1. Not want her recognize him
2. Not want others see him.

I pray thee, Divine unto me: Help me to see future.

Various means in divining.

Dice or shuffling of cards

Flight of birds

Arrangement of dregs in cup.

Arrows —drawn out or shaken or thrown into air.

Look at liver.

1 Sam 28:9-11

The divining or controlling demon begin to impersonate one she was calling.

1 Sam 28:12

And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: Was Terrorized ...frightened...scared out of her wits.

About séances: Never participate in a séance.

A demon is summoned--an impersonating demon.

God allows Samuel to come up.

Soul of Samuel in waiting place for dead.

and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

By special permission from God

Unger: *The medium's terrified conduct, and her complete loss of poise at the appearance of a real spirit of a deceased person, constitutes a complete and irrefutable Scriptural disclosure of the fraudulency of all spiritistic error.*

1 Sam 28:13-14

Willing to bow to and pay homage to dead person but not to God!

Typical of the flesh

Willing to bow down to or to pay homage to dead things rather than God.

1 Sam 28:15-16

Sin unto death -1 Jn 5.16.

Developed set and settled attitude of rebellion against God.

1 Sam 28:17-18

Incident happened 15 years previous. 1 Sam 15.3

Lost line to kingdom.

1 Sam 28:19

Many lives affected because of Saul's disobedience.

Sons, Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchi-shua, die.

Those who stuck with him all the way will die.

1 Sam 28:20

Saul's chance to call out to God.

1 Sam 28:21-23

Sat upon the bed: Sat up in position of a king.

No more humility.

1 Sam 28:24

Fatted calf--symbolic of best she could offer.

Celebration.

1 Sam 28:25

Questions:

Did Saul know it was wrong to seek out a witch?

Why do it?

Why does a child of God today knowingly set out to disobey God when he knows it will destroy his life?

So What?

We choose to disobey God and God's principles because we feel it is necessary.

We rationalize based on our necessity.

This is what the flesh always does--takes present situation and makes it look like crisis.

Then makes it necessary.

Then causes person to rationalize based on immediate.

Causes a person to take eyes off permanent and put them on immediate.

Before person realizes what doing actually sacrifices permanent on altar of immediate.